

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 23, 24, 27 and 29-32 are pending in this application, with Claim 24 being the only independent claim. Claim 24 is amended herein to more clearly recite that the recording medium is a plain paper. Support for this amendment may be found in the Examples in the specification, for example, at least at page 96, lines 10-16. It is submitted that no new matter has been added by the amendments herein.

In the June 4, 2004 Office Action, Claims 23, 24, 27 and 29-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Field et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,420,039). Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection.

Before addressing the merits of the rejection, Applicants believe it will be helpful to review some features and advantages of the present invention. The present invention, as recited in Claim 24, relates to an ink-jet imaged recording medium comprising a colored portion. The colored portion comprises aggregates of fine particles, each of the fine particles having a coloring material thereon by adsorption in a monomolecular state. The recording medium is a plain paper. The coloring material is anionic or cationic, and the fine particles have a polarity opposite to that of the coloring material. The colored portion is obtained by applying an ink containing the coloring material and a liquid composition containing the fine particles to the recording medium in such a manner that the ink and the liquid composition come in contact with each other in a liquid state.

In other words, the image is formed by a liquid-liquid reaction when the ink (containing a coloring material) and the liquid composition (containing fine particles) come in contact in a liquid state on the plain paper recording medium. In the image portion of the present invention, the coloring material is adsorbed sufficiently and efficiently by fine particles in a monomolecular state, compared with a conventional image formed on a coated paper. In the present invention, the amount of the fine particles can be reduced, and the texture of the base paper is not impaired. (See page 4, line 19 to page 6, line 17 of the specification.) Applicants submit that an image formed according to the present invention and one formed on a coated paper are different in structure, and that the cited reference does not teach or suggest the invention as presently claimed.

In the attachment to the September 27, 2004 Advisory Action, the Examiner questions how the difference between the ink-jet imaged recording medium of the present inventions versus that of Field et al. is expressed in the claims. Applicants submit that the amendment herein clarifies the structural difference between the present invention and Field et al., which is a coated paper. Amended Claim 24 recites that the colored portion is formed on a plain paper, as shown in the Examples. It is noted that the fine particles are present mainly in the colored portion. Thus, the texture of the recording material is not impaired.

In contrast, in Comparative Examples 8 and 9 of the present invention and in Field et al., a coated paper is used, and fine particles are present all over the recording medium. The texture evaluation of the recorded medium of the Examples of the invention is “A”, but in Comparative Examples 8 and 9, the texture evaluation is “B”. See Tables 1 and 2, pages 105 and 106. Table 2 notes that the recording paper itself has a coating layer containing porous fine

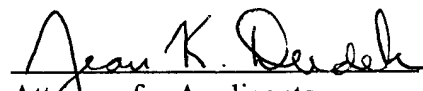
particles. The plain paper used for the Examples and the coated papers used for Comparative Examples 8 and 9 are further described at page 96, lines 10-22.

Applicants therefore conclude that Field et al. does not teach or suggest all the features of the invention as presently claimed. Applicants submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 24. The dependent claims are allowable for the same reasons as independent Claim 24, as well as for the patentable features recited therein. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants request withdrawal of the above-noted rejection, and submit that this application is in condition for allowance.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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